

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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R 282143Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7997

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION NATO

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR GARBLED TEXT PARA 2

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, FR, SF

SUBJECT: JACQUES SCHRICKE, NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO
SOUTH AFRICA

1. JACQUES SCHRICKE, 54, A POLITICAL/MILITARY AFFAIRS
EXPERT WHO WAS IN CHARGE OF THE PACTS AND
DISARMAMENT OFFICE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS*
HAS BEEN NAMED NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA,
REPLACING MICHEL LEGENDRE.

2. THE BELGIAN-BORN SCHRICKE ENTERED THE DIPLOMATIC
SERVICE IN 1947 AFTER WAR-TIME MILITARY SERVICE AND
GRADUATION FROM THE ECOLE NATIONALE D'ADMINISTRATION.
HE FIRST SERVED IN THE AFRICA-LEVANT BUREAU OF THE QUAI
D'ORSAY (1947-1950) AND LATER IN THE FRENCH HIGH
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COMMISSION IN THE SAAR (1950-1952). HE SUBSEQUENTLY

SERVED IN WASHINGTON (1952-1956), BONN (1956-1960) AND RABAT (1960-1964). SCHRICKE BECAME FRENCH DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO NATO (1964-1968); HE THEN MOVED TO THE KEY POST OF DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL OF NATIONAL DEFENSE (A BUREAU ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO THE NSC STAFF). AFTER A YEAR'S STUDY AT HARVARD (1970-1971), SCHRICKE RETURNED TO THE QUAI D'ORSAY; HE HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF THE PACTS AND DISARMAMENT OFFICE SINCE DECEMBER 1972.

3. SCHRICKE SPEAKS ENGLISH WELL, GENUINELY LIKES AMERICANS, AND FONDLY RECALLS HIS YEARS SPENT IN THE US. AMERICAN DIPLOMATS HAVE FOUND HIM COMPETENT, PERSONABLE, FRANK AND WELL INFORMED IN DEFENSE MATTERS. SOME OBSERVERS FEEL THAT HE LACKS BOTH IMAGINATION AND DRIVE, BUT ACKNOWLEDGE THAT HIS RECENT SERVICE IN PARIS -- DEALING WITH THE RIGIDITIES OF GAULLIST DEFENSE POLICY -- WAS NOT LIKELY TO BRING OUT EITHER OF THESE QUALITIES. THE EARLY PART OF HIS TENURE AS PACTS AND DISARMAMENT DIRECTOR CORRESPONDED TO A DIFFICULT TIME IN US-FRENCH RELATIONS, BUT SCHRICKE ABLY DEFENDED FRENCH INTERESTS, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME BEING RELATIVELY COOPERATIVE WITH HIS US CONTACTS. HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO HIS SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADORSHIP AND PROBABLY WILL BE A CANDID AND AMIABLE COLLEAGUE FOR HIS AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS IN PRETORIA.

4. SCHRICKE MARRIED CORNELIE GONSE IN 1947; THEY HAVE THREE GROWN CHILDREN.
RUSH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 28 MAR 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975PARIS08011
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750110-0037
From: PARIS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975036/aaaaafiv.tel
Line Count: 91
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 MAY 2003 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <02 JUN 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: JACQUES SCHRICKE, NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA
TAGS: PDIP, FR, SF, (SCHRICKE, JACQUES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006